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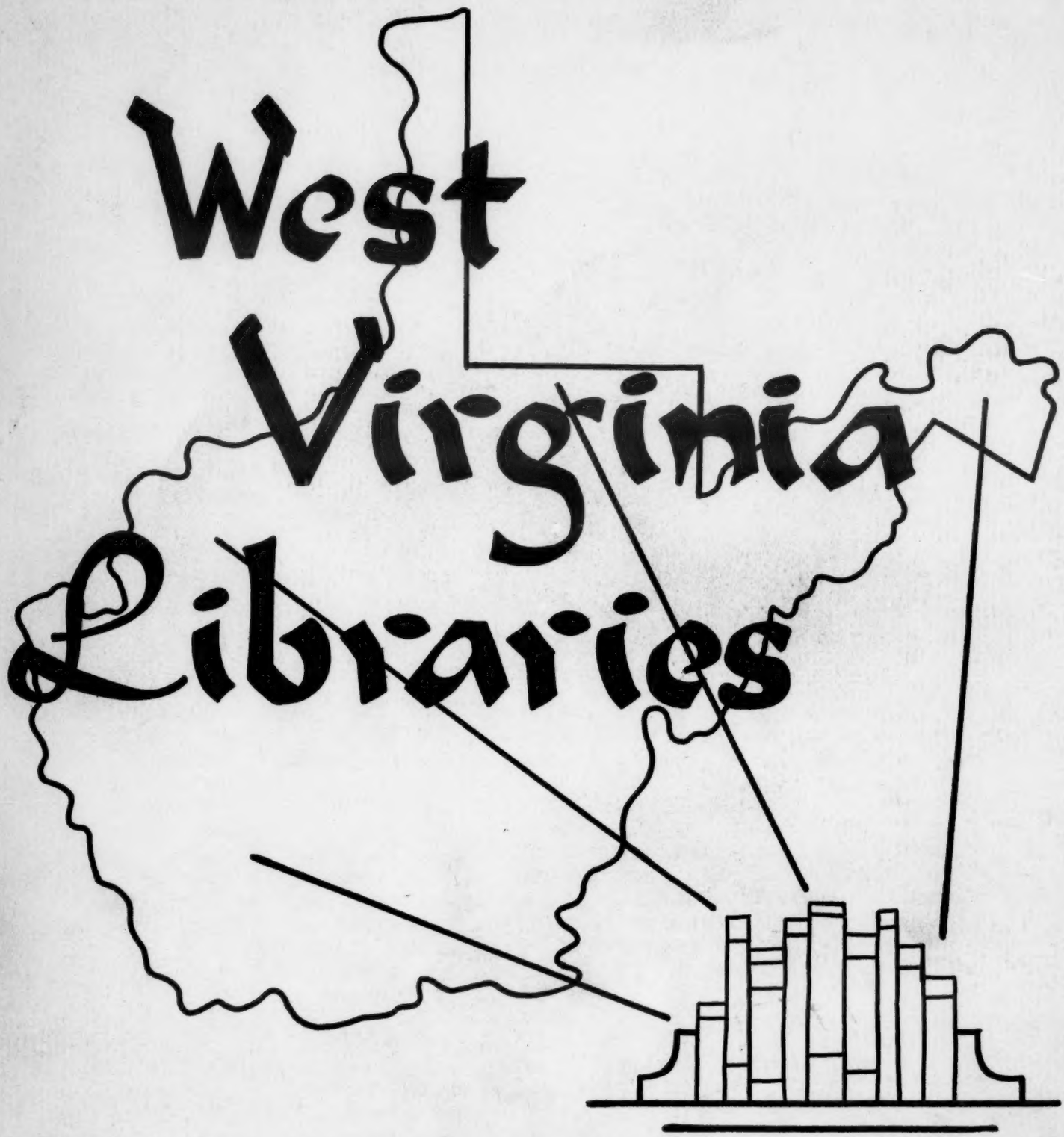
West Virginia Libraries



WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

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WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES is the official organ of the West Virginia Library Association. It is published quarterly. Contributions and other Communications should be addressed to the Editor or to the appropriate Editorial Assistant. Subscription is included with the membership dues. Annual subscription is one dollar to non-members.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As vacation periods draw to a close, there remains another event to be awaited eagerly. I am referring, of course, to the annual conference of the West Virginia Library Association which is almost at hand.

I extend to each of you a most cordial invitation to COME TO THE CONFERENCE. I feel that you will find the speakers delightful, the progress informative, the exhibits outstanding, the accommodations attractive, the conversations scintillating and Wheeling welcoming.

The responsibility of promoting library service and librarianship in West Virginia does not rest exclusively with librarians. If we are to achieve any degree of success in accomplishing these goals, we must of necessity depend upon others to assist in the work that lies ahead. For that reason, it is most important that we urge members of our library boards, staff and friends to attend the annual conference in Wheeling on October 21 and 22 so that they may have the opportunity of participating in our discussions and plans.

What will one see, hear and do at the WVLA Conference? Here are some highlights.

1. The program committee, for example, has scheduled a trustees breakfast meeting (beginning at 8:30 a.m.) on Saturday, October 22. Mr. Curtis P. Smith, Chairman of the Trustees Section, will lead the discussion.

2. We expect to have 25 outstanding commercial exhibits this year. Please plan your time so that you will be able to look them over carefully. All exhibits will

be located in the rooms directly behind the mezzanine and will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You will find new and interesting books, bindings, supplies and equipment. In addition, Friday, October 21, between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. has been officially designated as time to VISIT THE EXHIBITS.

3. A reception will be held at the Ohio County Public Library on Friday, October 21 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. All members will have an opportunity of meeting and talking with the conference speakers.

4. Our speakers are:

   1. MISS GERMAINE KRETTECK, Director of the American Library Association's Washington Office. Her address will be given at the first general session on Friday morning, October 21.

   2. DR. ROY BIRD COOK, Pharmacist, historian, author and friend of West Virginia libraries and librarians. Dr. Cook will speak at the Friday luncheon, October 21.

   3. MARY LEE SETTLE, West Virginia author, whose new book, KNOW NOTHING, will be published in October. Copies can be purchased at the convention and will be autographed. Miss Settle will be the banquet speaker.

   4. MISS ELIZABETH NESBITT, Associate Dean, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Carnegie Library School, author, teacher and librarian will address the conference at the Saturday luncheon, October 22.

   5. General Sessions - There will be two - one each on Friday and Saturday mornings.

   6. Following the luncheon on Saturday, we suggest that you plan to visit the libraries in the vicinity:

      Mary H. Weir Public Library in Weirton
      Ohio County Public Library
      Phillips Memorial Library, Bethany College
      Wheeling College Library

   7. A social hour honoring conference exhibitors will be held on October 20, Thursday evening beginning at 8:30 p.m.

All persons attending the conference or any of the sessions are expected to register. The conference registration

badge is issued upon payment of $1.00 registration fee and will admit you to all sessions.

The registration form should be returned without delay so that we may make definite arrangements with the hotel for the meal events. If you place a reservation in advance and find that you must cancel, please notify the registration committee at least 48 hours in advance.

Hotel reservations for the conference period should be secured as soon as possible. Headquarters will be at the Hotel McLure.

It has been a privilege for me to serve as President of the West Virginia Library Association during the past year. Thank you for giving me that opportunity.

So many persons have been kind and generous with their time and talent. To each of you I extend my sincerest appreciation.

Nicholas Winowich
President

WEST VIRGINIA BOOKS FOR WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOLS

by

Robert F. Munn
West Virginia University Library

More than 3500 books have been distributed to West Virginia high and junior high schools during the past month. These books were part of the West Virginia Heritage Bookshelf. Each Bookshelf included twenty-five volumes and two maps on all aspects of the State--history, folklore, literature, economics etc. Every county in West Virginia received at least one Bookshelf, with up to five going to the more populous.

The story behind the distribution of the Heritage Bookshelf is an interesting one. It all started with the feeling that West Virginians often lack pride in their State. In large part, this lack of pride is based on an appalling ignorance of the State's history and traditions. It is true that the schools of West Virginia have done a highly creditable job in attempting to arouse this pride-based-on-knowledge. The annual Golden Horseshoe Contest has been perhaps the most successful venture in this direction. However, the schools of West Virginia have been handicapped by a serious and long-standing lack of books.

The school libraries in West Virginia, with a few notable exceptions, are far below the national standards. Many teachers, eager to increase their students' knowledge of the State, are handicapped by a lack of books. Some of the most

effective teaching devices--reports, class research projects, outside reading--are impossible in many schools.

In November of 1959, officials of West Virginia University and the West Virginia Foundations, Inc., approached the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation with a proposal designed to help overcome this critical need for books on the State's history and heritage.

The proposal was simple. It included:

- the placing of a basic library of West Virginiana in as many schools as possible. The books would deal with all aspects of the State--history, literature, natural resources, folklore, etc. The original goal was at least 20 volumes in each library.
- the offer of the West Virginia University Library to assume the responsibility of selecting, assembling and distributing the collections.

The proposal was received enthusiastically by the Board of Directors of the Benedum Foundation. The Board agreed to grant the W.V.U. Foundation enough money to place a library of West Virginiana in some 141 high and junior high schools throughout the State.

Then the fun began . . . . . .

What were the two dozen "best" books on West Virginia? Which of these were suitable for secondary school use? Should out-of-print books be included? If so, were there enough copies available at reasonable prices to warrant their inclusion?

What about maps?

How much should be spent for one title?

Which is better--one splendid title at $14 or two good ones at $7 each?

Many teachers, librarians and scholars were invited to examine lists and make suggestions.

It soon became evident that several books on which virtually all consultants agreed--real West Virginia classics--were long out of print. They cost, when they could be found at all, as much as $50 apiece. Clearly, they had to be reprinted. Among them: Wills DeHass' History of the Early Settlement and Indian Wars of Western Virginia; Doddridge's Notes; and Louise McNeill's Gauley Mountain.

And then there were the books that had not yet been written. Despite problems of time and funds, arrangements were made for the publication of two badly needed works--Dr. Musick's Ballads, Folk Songs and Folk Tales from West Virginia; and Charles Shetler's Guide to the Study of West Virginia History.

A complete list of the 25 books included in the West Virginia Heritage Bookshelf appears at the end of this article. The decision to include a given title was based on many factors--the book's general appeal and significance, its utility to the schools, its cost and, of course, its availability. Every effort was made to include at least one book on each major aspect of West Virginia.

Unfortunately, there still are a number of subjects for which no suitable book could be located. It should be

stressed that the failure to include a given title does not indicate that it is without merit. Many splendid books were omitted because they are too specialized, too costly or because their reprinting presented insoluble economic or legal problems.

There are nearly 400 secondary schools in West Virginia. The available funds permitted the donation of collections to only about one-third of these. Therefore, it became necessary to devise an equitable system of distribution. The county was selected as the basic unit. Each county, no matter how few secondary schools it has, was allotted at least one collection. The maximum was five. Each County Superintendent was asked to designate the school or schools in his jurisdiction to receive the libraries. The Superintendent of State Catholic Schools, on the same pro rata basis, was asked to select four parochial institutions.

Titles Included in the WEST VIRGINIA HERITAGE BOOKSHELF

1. Ambler, Charles Henry, 1876-1957
   A History of Education in West Virginia. Huntington: Standard Printing and Publishing Co., 1951 1010p. illus.

   Out of print.

2. Ambler, Charles Henry and Festus P. Summers.
   West Virginia, the Mountain State. 2nd ed. Prentice-Hall, 1958 584p. illus.

3. Clagg, Sam E. and Robert L. Britton.
   West Virginia Atlas. Huntington: Marshall College, 1955 49p.

   May be purchased from the authors.

4. Core, Earl.
   Plant Life of West Virginia. New York: Scholar's Library, 1960 224p.

5. Davies, William E.
   Caverns of West Virginia. Morgantown: West Virginia Geological Survey, 1958 330p. illus.

   May be purchased from the Geological Survey.

6. Dayton, Ruth W. (Mrs. Arthur S.)
   Pioneers and Their Homes on the Upper Kanawha. Charleston: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1947 320p.

   May be purchased from the publisher.

*7. DeHass, Wills, 1818-1910.
   History of the Early Settlement and Indian Wars of Western Virginia. 416p. First printed in 1851; Reprinted in 1960 by the McClain Printing Company, Parsons, W. Va.

*8. Doddridge, Joseph, 1769-1826.
   Notes on the Settlement and Indian Wars of the Western Parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania. 320p. First printed in 1824. Reprinted 1960 by the McClain Printing Company, Parsons, W. Va.

9. Haught, Oscar L.
   Coal and Coal Mining in West Virginia. Morgantown: West Virginia Geological Survey, 1959 35p.

   May be purchased from the Geological Survey.

10. Haught, Oscar L.
Oil and Gas in West Virginia. Morgantown: West Virginia Geological Survey, 1959 31p.

May be purchased from the Geological Survey.

11. Jones, Lona F.
Gateway to the Golden Horseshoe Test. 2nd ed. Point Pleasant, West Virginia, 1959 166p.

May be purchased from the author. Route 2, Point Pleasant.

12. Kessler, Kent.
Hail, West Virginians. Weston, 1959 362p.

May be purchased from the author, Weston, W. Va.

13. Kenny, Hamill T.
West Virginia Place Names, their Origin and Meaning. Piedmont, West Virginia, 1945 768p.

Out of print.

14. Mallison, Sam T.
The Great Wildcatter. Charleston: Education Foundation, 1953 528p.

May be purchased from the publisher.

*15. McNeill, Louise
Gauley Mountain. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1939 Reprinted 1960 by the McClain Printing Company.

16. Morgan, John G.
West Virginia Governors. Charleston: Newspaper Agency Corp., 1960 103p.

May be purchased from the publisher.

17. Musick, Ruth Ann.
Ballads, Folk Songs and Folk Tales from West Virginia. Morgantown: WVU Library, 1960 71p.

May be purchased from the University Library.

18. Shetler, Charles W.
Guide to the Study of West Virginia History. Morgantown: West Virginia University Library, 1960 151p.

May be purchased from the University Library.

19. Skidmore, Hubert
Hill Doctor. New York: Doubleday, 1940 307p.

20. Skidmore, Hubert
River Rising. New York: Doubleday, 1939 298p.

21. Stone, Edward
Incident at Harper's Ferry. Prentice-Hall, 1956 231p.

22. Thompson, James H.
West Virginia Statistical Handbook. Morgantown: West Virginia University, 1959 143p.

May be purchased from the Bureau of Business Research, West Virginia University.

23. Vandiver, Frank E.
Mighty Stonewall. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1957 547p.

24. West Virginia; a Guide to the Mountain State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941 559p.

*25. Withers, Alexander S.
Chronicles of Border Warfare. 227p. First printed in Clarksburg in 1831. Reprinted in 1960 by McClain Printing Company.

* May be purchased from McClain Printing Company, Parsons, West Virginia.

JUST PUBLISHED

INDEX TO WEST VIRGINIANA

By

Robert F. Munn

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CAPITOL COMMENTS

by

WVLA Legislation Committee

Current legislative headlines:

Federal Library Services Act Extended to June 30, 1966.

Congress Appropriates Full 7 1/2 Million for LSA in 1960-61.

Library Planks Included in National and State Platforms of Both Parties, for First Time.

Both Gubernatorial Candidates Pledge Support of West Virginia Libraries.

Two Bills Being Drafted by Legislative Committee for 1961 Legislature. Legislation Committee Expanded.

Federal Library Services Act Extended to June 30, 1966. Continued Federal support for the development of West Virginia's public libraries was assured dramatically Aug. 22 when the House bypassed the powerful Rules Committee, which had blocked the bill since the first of June, and suspended the rules, bringing the Library Services Act Extension to a vote. On a voice vote, the bill for extension was passed 190-29. In this manner of voting, the individual vote is not recorded so it is impossible to determine officially how each of our representatives voted. But three of them, Harley Staggers, Ken Hechler and Cleveland Bailey, had introduced extension bills in this session and the last two, unable because of the

time limit on debate to speak, filed statements of support for the extension in the Congressional Record. The other three members of the West Virginia delegation demonstrated many times their support of this extension and their affirmative voting also is certain.

During the period when the bill was "denied a rule" by the Rules Committee, the Legislative Committee secured the support of many trustees, librarians, and friends in attempting to free the bill. (Governor Underwood in response to our request made a direct appeal to the 4 Republicans on the Rules Committee to change their vote and let the bill move to the floor in the House). Each Association member will continue to further library support by thanking each of our Senators, Congressmen, the Governor, and all the others who worked for favorable action on the extension of the Library Services Act.

Congress Appropriates Full 7 1/2 Million For LSA In 1960-61. Without an appropriation, an authorization act, such as the Library Services Act, is meaningless. On the heels of the LSA extension victory came another triumph. For the first time since the original act was passed, the full 7 1/2 million for the year 1960-61 was appropriated.

Library Planks Included in National and State Platforms of Both Parties and for First Time. The growing awareness of the significance of libraries in our society is indicated by the inclusion of a library plank in the platforms of both parties. The Democratic National Convention adopted at Los

Angeles the statement: "We pledge further Federal support.... for libraries and adult education....", and the Republicans at Chicago pledged to support "....efforts to make adequate library facilities available to all our citizens...."

In West Virginia, the Library Association appeared by invitation before the Republican Platform Committee. (Sen. Harry Moats, of Harrisville, Ritchie County Library Board member, was Chairman of this committee.) Subsequently the Republican Platform included: "We pledge ourselves to... increased financial support for adequate public library services." When the Democratic Platform Committee met, the Association also appeared. (Sam Harshbarger of the Huntington-Cabell Library Board, was a member of that committee.) The Democratic platform pledges "The encouragement and support of the development of adequate library services as a significant education activity for all the people of West Virginia."

Both Gubernatorial Cnadidates Pledge Support of West Virginia Libraries. In response to requests by the Legislation Committee to Mr. Harold Neely, Republican candidate for Governor, and to Mr. W. W. Barron, Democratic candidate for Governor, for their "views on the role and position of West Virginia's libraries," these answers were received.

Volunteers for Neely
P. O. Box 1162
Charleston, W. Va.

July 20, 1960

Robert R. McClarren, Chairman
Legislation Committee
West Virginia Library Association
c/o Huntington Public Library
Huntington 1, West Virginia

Dear Mr. McClarren:

I very much regret misplacing your earlier correspondence.

I have very strong feeling regarding the vital importance of library service to the development of West Virginia citizens and our State. It is my feeling that educational opportunities are a prerequisite of individual development, community development, and industrial progress in our State.

It is most unfortunate that State appropriations have been inadequate to match Federal funds for the past few years. It is deplorable and tends to retard educational and cultural development in West Virginia.

If I should have the good fortune of serving the citizens as their governor, you may be fully assured that I will do everything in my capacity to promote increased educational development and vastly expanded library facilities for all our citizens.

It is my great hope that the present session of Congress will extend the Federal Library Services Act during its brief August Session.

With all best wishes,

Very sincerely,

Harold Neely

Campaign Headquarters
W. W. "Wally" Barron
P. O. Box 89
Charleston 21, W. Va.
May 18, 1960

Mr. Robert R. McClarren, Chairman
Legislation Committee
West Virginia Library Association
Huntington Public Library
Huntington, West Virginia

Dear Mr. McClarren:

Being a lawyer by profession, I certainly know the value and importance of books. Their influence and educational impact upon a society cannot be overstated.

The main problems of a library appear to me to be two-fold: (1) people must be induced to seek the services of a library, and (2) a library must be properly equipped and staffed to satisfy the desires of its users. As you are well aware, neither problem can be successfully overcome without sufficient expenditures.

It follows that, like so many of our other governmental services, libraries need additional monies. Your letter mentions that the West Virginia Library Commission's budget for the coming year is some $28,078.00 short of the amount needed to obtain maximum Federal matching funds. You will find that the Board of Public Works, of which I am a member, recommended that the requested amount of $123,000.00 be approved, but that this recommendation was not accepted by our Legislature. I can assure you that my sentiment in this regard will not change if I am successful in November. As Governor of West Virginia, I firmly believe that I could furnish the necessary leadership and guidance to obtain needed funds for our Library Commission each year.

As to school libraries, I do not know why the Department of Education does not have an employee devoted to developing school libraries at least to the point where our State would meet minumum standards. If I were Governor, I would soon find the reason.

As Governor, I would have to rely heavily upon your association's advice and counselling regarding library needs in West Virginia. I think that considerable thought should be given to the possibility of revising our present laws to permit a more concerted effort rather than to depend

upon different segments of our government for pieces of information which, when put together, gives the over-all library situation in West Virginia. I do not mean that school and public libraries should be one and the same, but I mean that such services as the library commission, state law library, state museum, etc., might possibly function more effectively and efficiently if placed under a different means of control. What do you suggest in this regard?

I would enjoy meeting and talking with you on your next visit to Charleston. With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Wally Barron

In response to Mr. Barron's invitation, 3 representatives of the Association met with him, Aug. 26. The status of West Virginia libraries--school, academic, state, and public--were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Barron reaffirmed the support pledged in his letter, and specifically talked about ways of strengthening the West Virginia Library Commission through increased financial support and the appointment of qualified members to the Commission.

Two Bills Being Drafted By Legislation Committee For 1961 Legislature. Sub-committees of the Legislation Committee have 1)prepared a rough draft of a bill to clarify the composition of regional library boards when additional counties join an already existing regional library or when more than 5 counties form a regional library and 2) are preparing a series of amendments to the present library law so that in libraries supported by funds appropriated by more than one levying authority these funds may be pooled. In the later case Dick Shelton, formerly of the Tax Commissioner's Office, has given

invaluable advice, and in both cases Sen. Arch Riley, Chmn., Senate Library Committee, has agreed to help with the final drafts.

Legislation Committee Expanded. To broaden its representation, provide for greater continuity of activity, and to increase its strength in legislative action, the Legislation Committee recommended to the WVLA President that its membership be increased from 8 to 15. Acting on this recommendation Mr. Winowich appointed the following additional members of the Association to the enlarged Committee:

Virginia Ebeling, Head Librarian, Ohio Co. Public Library
Olive Lewis, Librarian, Wood Co. Secondary School Libraries
Mrs. Lucille McNary, Librarian, Alpha and Harrison-Upshur Regional Libraries
Ora Peters, Head Librarian, Concord College
Frank Cooper, Librarian, Engineering Dept., Union Carbide Olefins Co.
W. F. Dalzell, Trustee, Moundsville-Marshall County Public Library
William Myers, Librarian, Mary Weir Public Library

To insure the continuation of an enlarged committee and to clarify the position of the Federal Coordinator, the Committee has recommended that the Association's By-Laws be revised to provide for 12 appointed members, to serve 3 year terms on a staggered basis, and to specify that the Federal Coordinator be appointed by the President from the Committee membership.